

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 2

Proposition 2 is UNNECESSARY, RISKY and EXTREME. It is sponsored by a well-funded Washington, DC-based special interest group and will have dangerous, expensive consequences for California.

Proposition 2 puts Californians AT RISK for AVIAN INFLUENZA, *Salmonella* contamination and other diseases. California farmers help protect Californians against Avian Influenza, or BIRD FLU, and other diseases by using modern housing systems to raise egg-laying hens – housing systems effectively banned by Proposition 2. It is so EXTREME that it also effectively bans “cage-free” eggs, forcing hens outdoors for most of the day.

“This outdoor access enhances the likelihood that such poultry will have direct contact with migratory and wild birds as well as other animals, substantially increasing the risk of Avian Influenza (AI), Exotic Newcastle Disease, and other diseases.”

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

According to the WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, transmission of bird flu from poultry to humans results in “very severe disease” and “could mark the start of a global outbreak (a pandemic).”

Nearly all California farmers follow the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s California Egg Quality Assurance Program, assuring the highest standards for FOOD SAFETY and PUBLIC HEALTH. This program has resulted in the virtual elimination of food-borne illness, like *Salmonella*, in California eggs. In fact, according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, no case of *Salmonella* has been traced to California egg production in

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**

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nearly a decade. Eggs produced and trucked in from out-of-state and Mexico are not required to meet the same high food safety standards as California eggs.

Proposition 2 HARMS California CONSUMERS who rely on safe, fresh, affordable California-raised eggs for their families. Consumers will be forced to buy eggs trucked in thousands of miles away from out-of-state and MEXICO. California family farmers will be driven out of business. It will COST thousands of JOBS and more than \$600 MILLION in ECONOMIC ACTIVITY will be LOST, hurting the state and local economies. California eggs will be MORE EXPENSIVE. With gasoline, housing, and basic grocery costs at an all-time high, Californians can't afford to pay higher prices for food.

Proposition 2 is misleading because it refers to *treatment* of several farm animals but it actually addresses *housing methods*. The measure primarily affects egg-laying hens. Most food safety officials, public health experts, veterinarians and animal welfare advocates support modern housing systems, which provide the best possible care for hens while also protecting them, and humans alike, from injury, illness and disease.

Proposition 2 is UNNECESSARY because California law ALREADY PROTECTS animal welfare and safety.

Proposition 2:

- INCREASES THE RISK OF BIRD FLU
- INCREASES THE RISK OF FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS, LIKE *SALMONELLA*
- INCREASES GROCERY PRICES OF CALIFORNIA EGGS

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- COSTS THOUSANDS OF CALIFORNIA JOBS AND PUTS FARMERS OUT OF BUSINESS
- COSTS CALIFORNIA \$615 MILLION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
- HARMS THE ENVIRONMENT BY CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL WARMING

Family farmers, veterinarians, public health and food safety experts, and consumers urge a “NO” vote on Proposition 2. Visit www.safecaliforniafood.org.

VOTE NO ON PROP. 2

KEEP CALIFORNIA EGGS

SAFE. AFFORDABLE. FRESH. LOCAL.

Dr. Craig Reed, DVM, Former Deputy Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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Dr. Patricia Blanchard, DVM, PhD, Branch Chief, University of California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System